

NASA Success Story

Web Interactive Training (WIT)



Merrimac Interactive Media Corporation is commercializing the Web Interactive Training (WIT) software technology under a nonexclusive copyright license agreement with NASA at Kennedy Space Center. Under the agreement, the Marlton, New Jersey-based Merrimac will utilize the Internet and multimedia software, which provides quality training to NASA remote users. The WIT system was developed by the KSC Multimedia Laboratory of the Engineering Support Contractor, I-NET, Inc., and was assigned to NASA. WIT uses multiplatform interactive media to more effectively and efficiently deliver training to users. The primary delivery medium is the World Wide Web. A typical WIT course incorporates text, graphics, audio, video, animation, and testing. Merrimac is an offsite client of the Florida/NASA Business Incubation Center and runs a development laboratory in Cocoa, Florida. The company specializes in computer-based learning applications, electronic performance support systems, independent software development, and learning network delivery systems. Merrimac is refining the WIT-based training applications using the latest in streaming video and push technologies; synchronous instructional communication aids (videoconferencing and live bulletin boards) and team-based learning using Web communication tools.

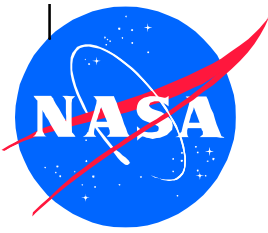
NASA Involvement Several WIT-based training courses were developed for the Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate at KSC. The first phase of the project was the conversion of an existing course on Nondestructive Evaluation and the creation of a new course on Statistical Process Control. The KSC Multimedia Laboratory developed four courses (including nondestructive evaluation, statistical process control, radiography, and advanced statistical process control) that incorporate interactive simulation modules, a random test generator with testing database and interactive feedback, and seamless integration of electronic performance support system components into the online training system. NASA's objective is to efficiently and effectively train a large base of NASA workers using state-of-the-art technologies delivered over the Internet through a Web browser interface. The KSC Multimedia Laboratory has developed additional training modules.

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Web Interactive Training (WIT) (Continued)

Social/Economic Benefit Computer-based learning, also known as computer-based or interactive training, is an economical solution to the problem organizations are faced with, an increasing need for training employees, even as management continues to trim training budgets. The WIT system, and all interactive training, targets the individual's method of learning, by consistently presenting information in the ways people most effectively learn - by seeing, hearing, and doing. Interactive learning lets the user see what is being presented, with text, graphics and video. It lets the user hear the narrator who is highlighting and reinforcing the concepts to be learned. The interactive components allow the user to participate in the presentation. Monetary benefits come from reduced training costs and associated travel and time-off task costs. The training is available right in the office on a personal computer 24 hours a day, seven days a week for user convenience and follow-up job performance support after the training is completed.

Industry Partner

Merrimac Interactive Media Corporation

NASA Partner

Kennedy Space Center

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